

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO R5-2009-0081

RESCISSION OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R5-2006-0064  
EXXONMOBIL PRODUCTION COMPANY  
HILL LEASE, SOUTH BELRIDGE OIL FIELD  
KERN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. ExxonMobil Production Company (hereafter ExxonMobil), a subsidiary of ExxonMobil Corporation, owns and operates crude oil production wells and a 17.5-acre wastewater disposal facility consisting of four unlined surface impoundments on the Hill Lease in the South Belridge Oil Field, Kern County. The Hill Lease consists of approximately 480 acres in the N½ and SW¼ of Section 19, T28S, R21E, MBD&M (Assessor Parcel No 085-210-10-2).
2. Non-hazardous production wastewater from the oil wells and filter backwash wastewater from a water treatment plant were discharged to the impoundments since the 1950's for disposal by evaporation and percolation.
3. On 4 June 2004, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2004-0080 (WDRs), to prescribe requirements for the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments. Provision C.12 of the WDRs required ExxonMobil to implement a wastewater disposal plan consistent with state regulations and policy and to cease the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments by 30 June 2006.
4. On 27 February 2006, ExxonMobil notified Central Valley Water Board staff that additional time was needed to implement the wastewater disposal plan and cease the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments.
5. Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2006-0064 (CDO), adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 23 June 2006, required ExxonMobil to implement the wastewater disposal plan and cease the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments by 31 December 2006. The CDO also required ExxonMobil to submit by 28 February 2007, a technical report with the final results of a hydrogeologic investigation that began in 2002 and a groundwater Corrective Action Plan.
6. On 28 December 2006, ExxonMobil implemented the wastewater disposal plan and ceased the discharge of wastewater to the impoundments. The wastewater disposal plan implemented consists of treatment of wastewater and disposal by subsurface injection into Class II disposal wells permitted by the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources.
7. On 26 February 2007, ExxonMobil submitted a technical report with the final results of the hydrogeologic investigation. On 28 February 2007, ExxonMobil submitted the groundwater Corrective Action Plan.

### PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

8. ExxonMobil and interested agencies and persons were notified of the intent to consider rescission of the CDO and provided an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
9. The issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15321.
10. Any person affected by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with sections 2050 through 2068, Title 23, California Code of Regulations. The petition must be received by the State Water Board, Office of Chief Counsel, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812-0100, within 30 days of the date on which the action was taken. Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to the filing of a petition are available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_laws/index.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html) and will be provided on request.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2006-0064 be rescinded.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on 13 August 2009.



PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

SRG/dlw: 6/24/09